



Repeater: NØDX 145.190 MHz (Input 144.590 / Tone 192.8 Hz)



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The Eastern Iowa DX Bulletin

Number 262, February 21, 2025

Craig Fastenow, KØCF, Editor

This bulletin is a compilation of **currently active** DX operations (or those that will become active within the current week) from recent issues of the three DX bulletins listed below and other sources. Credit for the source is given at the end of each article.

Articles are ordered by the entity's callsign prefix from the *ARRL DXCC Entities List*. Callsigns used are in **bold** with dates of operation highlighted in **red**. Clickable links are provided for QSL and other information wherever possible. Note that articles may be edited for grammar, language, style and accuracy and will remain in *The Bulletin* while active; articles that are announcements of ongoing operations, or that have no specified end date, will be removed after three weeks.

Also included is a [Propagation](#) section, updated daily; and a [Contest Calendar](#) of upcoming popular contests.

DX News items are courtesy of:

The ARRL DX Bulletin

The bulletin is available at <http://www.arrl.org>

425 DX News, A.R.I. DX Bulletin (425DXN)

Edited by Mauro Pregliasco, I1JQJ & Valeria Pregliasco, IK1ADH

425 DX News Home Page: <https://www.425dxn.org/>

425 DX News Google Group: <https://groups.google.com/g/425eng>

DX Newsletter (DXNL)

Edited by Andreas Salder, DK5ON

A weekly service of DARC Committee "DX", <http://www.darcdxhf.de>

Propagation data is from:

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's

[Space Weather Prediction Center](#)

Dr. Tony Phillips' SpaceWeather.com, used by permission

Contest data courtesy of the [WA7BNM Contest Calendar](#)



Solar-Terrestrial Data

22 Feb 2025 1812 GMT
 SFI:197 SN: 153
 A-Index: 6
 K-Index: 2
 X-Ray: C2.0
 304A: 162.4 @ SEM
 Ptn Flx: NoRpt
 Elc Flx: NoRpt
 Aurora: 1/n=1.99
 Mag (Bz): -2.3
 Solar Wind: 302.2
 Geomag Field QUIET
 Sig Noise Lvl S1-S2
 Current Solar Image



<http://www.nonbh.com>
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DX News

4S, SRI LANKA. Members of the Polish DX Team will be QRV as **4S7SPG** from Nilaveli from **February 16th to March 1st**. Activity will be on 80 to 10 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY, and FT8. QSL via [SP6CIK](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 7 February 13, 2025] (0214-0228)

5H, TANZANIA. Charles, NK8O, operates during his spare time as **5H3DX** from **February 20th until March 6th**. QSL via [NK8O](#), [ClubLog's OQRS](#), LoTW.

-[DXNL # 2446 February 19, 2025] (0221-0307)

5N, NIGERIA. Members of the Rebel DX Group are QRV as **5N9DTG**. Activity is on 160 to 6 meters using FT8 and FT4 with Superfox and MSHV modes. QSL via [ClubLog's OQRS](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 8 February 20, 2025] (0221-0314)

5W, SAMOA. Dave, G4BUO will be active as **5WØUO** from Samoa (OC-097) from **February 22nd to March 3rd**. He is a 99% CW operator. QSOs will be uploaded to LoTW in early April.
-[425DXN # 1764 February 22, 2025] (0221-0307)

5X, UGANDA. Currently based in Nairobi (Kenya), and using his 5Z4J callsign, John, ZS5J has just received his **5X1J** license. "I have an office in Uganda and I travel by road to Uganda from Kenya on a regular basis, usually for 2 to 3 weeks for each trip", he says. "It is on these trips that I will be using my 5X1J callsign. I will be operating mostly from Jinja, at the source of the River Nile near Lake Victoria". More information and updates will be posted to <https://www.qrz.com/db/5X1J>. QSL only via LoTW.
-[425DXN # 1763 February 15, 2025] (0214-0307)

6W, SENEGAL. Willy, ON4AVT, signs **6W7/ON4AVT** from **February 2nd to April 10th** from the town Warang. QRV on 80-10m (CW, SSB, FT8) and via QO-100. QSL via [ClubLog's OQRS](#), LoTW, eQSL.
-[DXNL # 2443 January 29, 2025] (0131-0411)

6Y, JAMAICA. Rob, VE4GV is QRV as **VE4GV/6Y** from Negril until **February 23rd**. Activity is on 80 to 10 meters using CW, SSB, FT8, and FT4. This includes being an entry in the ARRL DX CW contest (February 15th-16th). QSL via LoTW.
-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 7 February 13, 2025] (0214-0228)

8Q, MALDIVES. Mamoru, JH3VAA, will be operating as **8Q7VA** from **February 26th until May 5th** on HF (mostly FT8). QSL via [JH3VAA](#).
-[DXNL # 2442 January 22, 2025] (0221-0509)

8Q, MALDIVES. Takio, JH3QFL will be QRV as **8Q7FL** from **February 26th to March 6th**. Activity will be on 40 to 6 meters using FT8. QSL direct to [JH3QFL](#).
-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 8 February 20, 2025] (0221-0307)

9A, CROATIA. Watch for Charlie, NF4A, operating as **9A/NF4A** from **February 25th to March 3rd**. For the ARRL DX SSB Contest (March 1st-2nd) he joins the 9A1A team. QSL via [NF4A](#).
-[DXNL # 2446 February 19, 2025] (0221-0307)

9K, KUWAIT. Special callsign **9K9NLD** is for the Kuwait Amateur Radio Society to celebrate Kuwait National Day (February 25th) and Liberation Day (February 26th) **throughout the month of February**. QSL via [EC6DX](#).
Also joining the celebrations will be the Saudi Amateur Radio Society as **HZ1KWT** on **February 19th-25th**, and possibly the national societies of Bahrain (**A91KWT**) and the UAE (**A6ØKWT**).
-[425DXN # 1763 February 15, 2025] (0214-0228)

A6, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES. Special event stations **A6ØTET/Ø** through **A6ØTET/23** are QRV **until February 27th** for the UAE Emirates Tour Event Bicycle Road Race. QSL via operators' instructions.
-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 8 February 20, 2025] (0221-0228)

C5, THE GAMBIA. Przemko, SP3PS is QRV as **C5SP** **until mid-March**. Activity is on 20 to 10 meters using SSB and FT8. QSL to [SP3PS](#).
-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 3 January 16, 2025] (0117-0314)

C6, BAHAMAS. Chad, WE9V will be active as **C6ACK** while visiting "various islands" in the Bahamas from **February to May**. He will be QRV on 40-6m. He says he will eventually set up ClubLog. QSL via LoTW (preferred), or direct to [WD9DZV](#).
-[425DXN # 1764 February 22, 2025] (0221-0502)

CE9, ANTARCTICA. Alex, DL2ALY is QRV as **DPØGVN** from Neumayer III Station. Activity is on the HF bands using SSB and various digital modes. He may soon be active using CW. This includes being an entry in the upcoming ARRL DX CW contest (February 15-16). QSL via [DL5EBE](#).
-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 6 February 6, 2025] (0207-0228)

CE9, ANTARCTICA. Felix, DL5XL will be QRV as **DP1POL** from the German research station Neumayer III, IOTA AN-016, from **January 12th to February 25th**. Activity will be in his spare time on the HF bands using mostly CW with some SSB and various digital modes. QSL via [DL1ZBO](#).
-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 2 January 9, 2025] (0110-0228)

D4, CAPE VERDE. Celebrating the 50th anniversary of the independence of Cabo Verde (July 5, 1975), the Monteverde Contest Team (D4C) and Paolo, D44PM will be active as **D45ØICV** until **December 31st**. They will operate across all bands and modes, primarily focusing on HF. Watch <https://www.facebook.com/D4C.STATION> for updates. QSL via [ClubLog's OQRS](#).
-[425DXN # 1762 February 8, 2025] (0207-0228)

DL, GERMANY. Special callsign **DAØIARU** (special DOK IARU00) celebrates the IARU centenary until **April 27th**. QSL will be sent automatically via the bureau; direct via [DL2VFR](#).
-[DXNL # 2444 February 5, 2025] (0207-0307)

DL, GERMANY. Special callsign **DL2Ø25C** celebrates Chemnitz as one of the European Capitals of Culture 2025 from **January 18th until March 31st**. In addition, **DL2Ø25B**, **DL2Ø25E**, **DL2Ø25W**, and **DL2Ø25S** will also be active, marking previous German cities similarly honored (Berlin, Essen, Weimar) and the DARC district Saxony, where Chemnitz is located. An award program is also available; see <https://www.2025c.de>. QSL only in various digital forms.
-[DXNL # 2441 January 15, 2025] (0117-0328)

DXCC TOP TWENTY. Here are the top 20 entities on ClubLog's "DXCC Most Wanted" list as of February 21, 2025:

1. P5	DPRK (North Korea)	11. ZS8	Prince Edward & Marion Islands
2. BS7H	Scarborough Reef	12. KH4	Midway Island
3. CEØX	San Felix Islands	13. VKØM	Macquarie Island
4. BV9P	Pratas Island	14. PYØS	Saint Peter And Paul Rocks
5. KH7K	Kure Island	15. KP5	Desecheo Island
6. KH3	Johnston Island	16. VPØS	South Sandwich Islands
7. 3Y/P	Peter 1 Island	17. ZL9	New Zealand Subantarctic Islands
8. FT5/X	Kerguelen Island	18. FK/C	Chesterfield Islands
9. YVØ	Aves Island	19. VKØH	Heard Island
10. 3Y/B	Bouvet Island	20. FT/T	Tromelin Island

For the complete list, see <https://clublog.org/mostwanted.php>

-[KØCF February 21, 2025] (0221-0314)

F, FRANCE. Special callsign **TM13X** on Ratonneau Island (EU-095) will be on the air for the REF SSB Cup (**February 22nd-23rd**).
-[DXNL # 2446 February 19, 2025] (0221-0228)

F, FRANCE. The radio club Lanester F6KPQ celebrates its 50th anniversary as **TM5ØKPQ** during the REF SSB Cup (**February 22nd-23rd**).
-[DXNL # 2446 February 19, 2025] (0221-0228)

F, FRANCE. Georges, F6IMD and others will be active as **TMØ6CDN** from **February 15th to March 2nd** during the traditional Nice Carnival (Carnaval de Nice). Paper QSL cards will not be provided; eQSLs will be downloadable from <https://www.imgbbluew.com/TMØ6CDN/TMØ6CDN.html>.
-[425DXN # 1762 February 8, 2025] (0214-0307)

FJ, SAINT BARTHELEMY. Andreas, DK6AS is QRV as **FJ/DK6AS** until **sometime in March**. He plans to be active in the ARRL DX CW contest (February 15th-16th). QSL to [DK6AS](#).
-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 7 February 13, 2025] (0214-0307)

FP, ST. PIERRE & MIQUELON. Freddy, F4HEC will be active as **FP/F4HEC** from Saint Pierre and Miquelon (NA-032) on **February 16th-25th**. He will operate SSB and CW on 80-6 meters, with a focus on the French HF Championship SSB (February 22nd-23rd). QSL via [ClubLog's OQRS](#) and LoTW.
-[425DXN # 1762 February 8, 2025] (0214-0228)

FS, SAINT MARTIN. Mike, DF8AN, operates as **FS/DF8AN** and **TO8AN** during contests on **February 19th to 27th**. QSL via [DF8AN](#).
-[DXNL # 2446 February 19, 2025] (0221-0228)

FS, SAINT MARTIN. Jeff, VA3QSL will be active holiday style as **FS/VA3QSL** from St. Martin (NA-105) from **February 16th to March 4th**. He will operate SSB, CW and digital modes on 40-6 meters. QSL via LoTW or [VA3QSL](#).
-[425DXN # 1756 December 28, 2024] (0214-0307)

H4, SOLOMON IS. Bernhard, DL2GAC will be active again as **H44MS** from the Solomon Islands from **February 9th to May 7th**. He is usually QRV daily, with activity on 80-6 meters SSB and FT8. QSL via [DL2GAC](#).

-[425DXN # 1761 February 1, 2025] (0207-0509)

HK, COLOMBIA. Matt, KC1XX will be QRV as **5K4X** from Medellin as a Single Op/All Band/Low Power entry in both the ARRL DX CW contest (**February 15th-16th**) and the ARRL DX SSB contest (**March 1st-2nd**). QSL via LoTW.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 7 February 13, 2025] (0214-0307)

HP, PANAMA. N3QQ, W8HC, K5MSK, NL8F, OK8AU, RW3RN, R1BIG, and R9LR will operate as **3F3RRC** from PA-0033 in Panama from **February 27th until ???**. At present, the callsign still needs approval from the relevant authorities.

-[DXNL # 2444 February 5, 2025] (0221-0307)

HZ, SAUDI ARABIA. Members of the Saudi Amateur Radio Society are QRV with special call sign **HZ1KWT** until **February 25th** to celebrate Kuwait National Day. QSL via operators' instructions.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 8 February 20, 2025] (0221-0228)

ISØ, SARDINIA. Special callsign **IRØAPTT** celebrates the 50th anniversary of ARI Porto Torres (IQØAK), Sardinia. Look for activity on all bands and modes from **February 12th until May 12th**. QSL via the bureau or direct to [IRØAPTT](#).

-[425DXN # 1762 February 8, 2025] (0207-0307)

J5, GUINEA-BISSAU. Livio, IZ3BUR will be active again as **J52EC** from Guinea-Bissau from **January 26th to March 1st**. In his spare time, he will be QRV on 20, 15 and 10 meters SSB and possibly digital modes. QSL direct to [IZ3BUR](#).

-[425DXN # 1757 January 4, 2025] (0124-0228)

J6, ST. LUCIA. Steve, NY3B will be QRV as **J68SS** from **February 25th to March 4th**. He and other operators will be QRV as **J62K** in the upcoming ARRL International SSB DX contest (March 1st-2nd). QSL via operators' instructions.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 8 February 20, 2025] (0221-0307)

J7, DOMINICA. Oliver, W6NV, plans to operate as **J79NV** during **February**, with a focus on the ARRL CW contest (February 15th-16th) single op as **J75A**, and ARRL SSB contest (March 1st-2nd) together with FM5BH (J79BH), F8AAN (J79AN), and F5VHJ (J79AC). QSL for J79NV via [W6NV](#); no info yet for J75A which has been used once before.

-[DXNL # 2443 January 29, 2025] (0131-0307)

JD1/M, MINAMI TORISHIMA. Take, JG8NQJ, is on Marcus Island (OC-073) and operates **until the beginning of March** as **JD1/JG8NQJ**, mostly on 17 and 15m. QSL via [JA8CJY](#), LoTW.

-[DXNL # 2446 February 19, 2025] (0221-0228)

K, UNITED STATES. Team **N4T** will be active from Garden Key, Dry Tortuga's National Park (NA-079) from **February 19th to 24th**. They plan to be QRV on various bands and modes with up to three stations during the day and at least one station overnight. Updates will be posted to <https://www.drytortugas.info>; QSOs will be uploaded to ClubLog and LoTW.

-[425DXN # 1763 February 15, 2025] (0214-0228)

K, UNITED STATES. Special callsign **W7P** will be used by the Northern Arizona DX Association to conduct a 10-year special event countdown to the 100th anniversary of the discovery of Pluto by Clyde Tombaugh at Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff, Arizona (February 18, 1930). The inaugural event was held in 2021; this year's Pluto Anniversary Countdown will run on **February 15th-23rd**. Also, Doug Tombaugh (N3PDT), Clyde Tombaugh's nephew, will be operating during the event as **W7P/Ø**. See https://www.nadxa.com/w7p_pluto_2030.html for information. QSL direct to [W7P](#).

-[425DXN # 1762 February 8, 2025] (0214-0228)

KH9, WAKE I. Allen, KH7AL is QRV as **KH7AL/KH9** until **February 28th**. Activity has been on 12 and 10 meters using slow CW. QSL to [KH7AL](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 8 February 20, 2025] (0221-0228)

OX, GREENLAND. Bo, OZ1DJJ will be active again as **OX3LX** from Greenland from **February 25th to March 14th**. His main QTH will be the city of Nuuk (GP44de) on the main island (NA-018), with possibly a daytrip to Manitsog (NA-220, GP35nj). As always, this will be a working trip, and he will be QRV only in his spare time. QSL via [OZ0J](#), [ClubLog's OQRS](#) and LoTW.

-[425DXN # 1764 February 22, 2025] (0221-0314)

P4, ARUBA. Marty, KE4TT, will be active from Aruba (SA-036) as **P4/KE4TT** from **February 7th to March 11th**. He will operate CW, SSB and FT8 on various HF bands. QSL via LoTW, [ClubLog's OQRS](#), or [KE4TT](#).

-[425DXN # 1761 February 1, 2025] (0207-0314)

PA, NETHERLANDS. Commemorating the 80th anniversary of Operation Veritable during World War II, special event station **PA80OV** will be active on **February 13th-28th**. See <https://rcib.nl/pa80ov> for more information. Operation Veritable was the northern part of an Allied pincer movement that took place during the final stages of the conflict (February 8 - March 11, 1945). All QSOs will be confirmed automatically via the bureau; direct cards via [PD8RW](#).

-[425DXN # 1762 February 8, 2025] (0207-0228)

PJ2, CURACAO. Thaire, W2APF will be active as **PJ2/W2APF** from **January 12th to April 8th**. He will operate CW, SSB and FT8 on 80-10 meters. QSL via LoTW or [W2APF](#).

-[425DXN # 1757 January 4, 2025] (0110-0404)

PY, BRAZIL. PP5BZ puts Santana de Fora Island (SA-088) on the air as **ZW5W** from **February 21st to 23rd**.

-[DXNL # 2446 February 19, 2025] (0221-0228)

S5, SLOVENIA. Special callsign **S5100IARU** is for members of the Zveza Radio-amaterjev Slovenije (Association of Radio Amateurs of Slovenia) celebrating the 100th anniversary of the IARU **until December 31st**. QSL via LoTW, or via the bureau.

-[425DXN # 1762 February 8, 2025] (0207-0228)

SM, SWEDEN. On March 14, 1925, electrician and radio pioneer Sven Bernholm made history in Gavle by conducting the city's first radio broadcast under the callsign SMXF and using a homemade transmitter with 10 watts. Bernholm and Gefle Radioklubb's efforts led to nearly fifty years of local broadcasts. **SM100XF** is the callsign for Gavle Kortvagsamatorer (SK3GK) to celebrate this centenary during the year. The first two activations will be on **February 14th (1400-1700 UTC)** and on **March 14th (1000-1600 UTC)**. QSL via the bureau.

-[425DXN # 1761 February 1, 2025] (0214-0314)

SP, POLAND. The Polski Związek Krotkofalowcow (Polish Amateur Radio Union) will celebrate its 95th anniversary and the IARU centenary by activating ten special event stations from February 17th to March 3rd and again on April 11th-25th:

- **3Z95PZK, HF95PZK, SN95PZK, SO95PZK and SP95PZK;**

- **3Z100IARU, HF100IARU, SN100IARU, SO100IARU and SP100IARU.**

Details of a special award program will be published soon on <https://hamaward.cloud/awards>.

-[425DXN # 1762 February 8, 2025] (0214-0307)

TI, COSTA RICA. Members of the Russian Robinson Club are QRV as **TI1RRC** from Cano Island (NA-191) and **TI1RRC/p** from (NA-117) **until February 25th**. Activity is on the HF bands. QSL via [M0XOX's OQRS](#) or LoTW.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 8 February 20, 2025] (0221-0228)

TJ, CAMEROON. Thierry, TK1CX is QRV as **TJ/TK1CX** **until the end of February**. Activity is in his spare time on 20 to 10 meters using mostly FT8 and low power. QSL via LoTW, eQSL, or [EA5ZD](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 47 December 19, 2024] (1220-0228)

TR, GABON. Roland, F8EN is back to Gabon and active as **TR8CR** **until at least April**, maybe longer. He operates CW only. Log search on <http://LesNouvellesDX.fr/voirlogs.php>. QSL via [F6AJA](#).

-[425DXN # 1763 February 15, 2025] (0214-0328)

TY, BENIN. Gerard, F5NVF is QRV as **TY5C** from Godomey **until April 2nd**. Activity is holiday style on 80 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, and FT8. QSL direct to [F5RAV](#), or via LoTW.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 2 January 9, 2025] (0110-0404)

TZ, MALI. Ulmar, DK1CE will be active as **TZ1CE** from Bamako, Mali from **February 12th to March 4th**. He will operate SSB and FT8 on 160-6 meters, with special attention to 160m FT8, 80m FT8 and 6m. QSOs will be uploaded to ClubLog and LoTW and will be confirmed automatically via the bureau.

-[425DXN # 1762 February 8, 2025] (0207-0307)

V4, ST KITTS & NEVIS. Tom, KØYA, and his wife Antoinette, W5RCX, sign **V4/KØYA** and **V4/W5RCX**, respectively **until March 4th**. Tom will be active during the ARRL DX CW Contest (**February 15th-16th**) as **V47Y**. QSL via LoTW.

-[DXNL # 2444 February 5, 2025] (0207-0307)

V7, MARSHALL IS. Sven, DJ4MX, Yannick, DK1YH, Philipp, DK6SP, Braco, E77DX, Tomi, HA8RT and Jamie, MØSDV, will be active as **V73WW** from Majuro (OC-029), Marshall Islands from **February 12th to 23rd**. They will operate CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8 with four stations. Plans are to participate in the ARRL DX CW Contest (**February 15th-16th**). See <https://next-generation-dx.com/v7/> for V73WW's band plan and other information. Updates on <https://www.facebook.com/RMI2025>. QSL via LoTW, [ClubLog's QQRS](#), or [DJ4MX](#).

-[425DXN # 1759 January 18, 2025] (0207-0228)

VK, AUSTRALIA. Special callsign **VI1ØØSIG**, celebrating the centenary of the Australian Corps of Signals, has been QRV **since February 14**. See <https://www.qrz.com/db/VI100SIG> for more information. QSL via [MØOXO's QQRS](#).

-[425DXN # 1764 February 22, 2025] (0221-0314)

VK9N, NORFOLK I. Members of the Caboolture Radio Club will be QRV with special event call signs **VK9AB**, **VK9QD**, **VK9YB**, **VK9/VK4CJB**, **VK9/VK4KCA**, **VK9/VK4KLA**, **VK9/VK4PBE** and **VK9/VK4TG** from **February 22nd to March 1st**. Activity will be on all HF bands. Station VK9YB will attempt to set a new world record distance on 2200 and 630 meters. QSL via operators' instructions.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 8 February 20, 2025] (0221-0228)

VK9X, CHRISTMAS I. DF4GV, DJ9RR, DL2AMD, DL2AWG, VK6CQ and VK6SJ will be active as **VK9XU** from Christmas Island (OC-002) from **February 18th to March 4th**. They will operate CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8 (F/H or Super Fox) on 160-6 meters with three stations. See <https://vk9-2025.topdx.de/#welcome> for more information. QSOs will be uploaded to LoTW three months after the DXpedition. QSL via [ClubLog's QQRS](#), LoTW or [DL2AWG](#).

-[425DXN # 1757 January 4, 2025] (0214-0307)

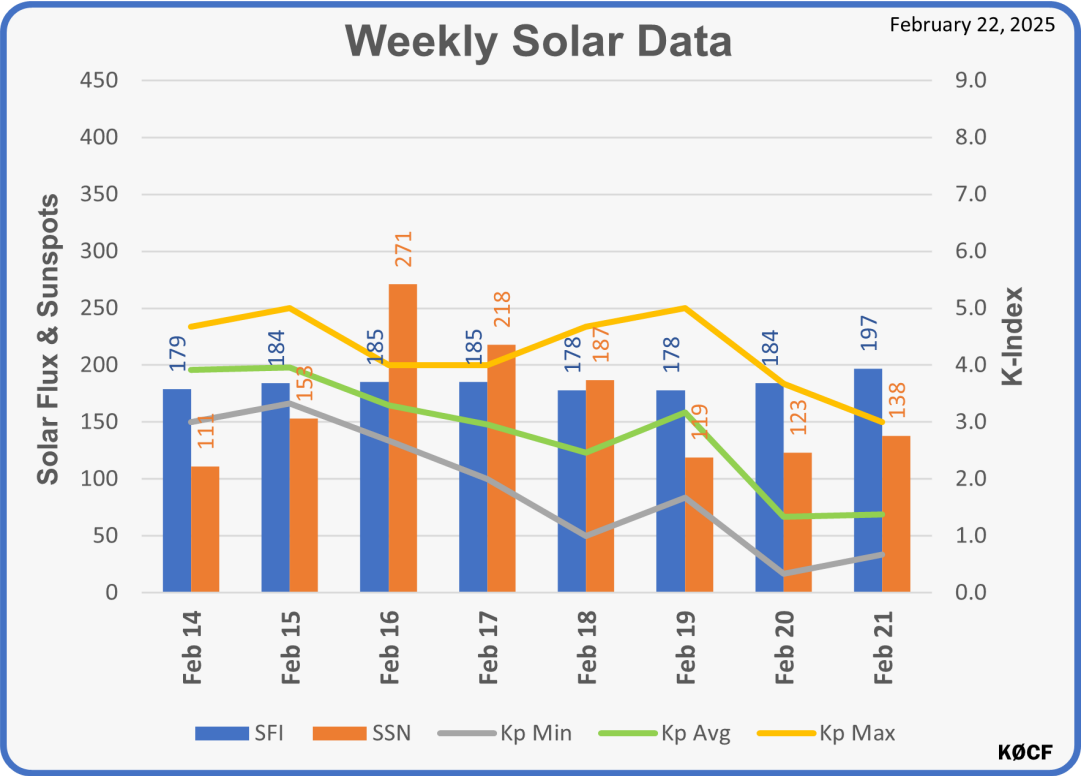
VU, INDIA. Datta, VU2DSI and Ajay, VU3LPQ will be active as **AU6LON** on **February 20th-24th** from the shores of Lonar Lake, created by the impact of a meteorite some 570,000 years ago. They will be QRV on 40, 20, 15 and 10 meters. QSL direct to [VU2DSI](#).

-[425DXN # 1763 February 15, 2025] (0214-0228)

YB, INDONESIA. Operators **YB7MP/p**, **YB7HYK/p** and **YE7HIO** are QRV from Laut Island (OC-166) **until February 23rd**. Activity is on all bands using SSB and various digital modes. QSL via operators' instructions.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 8 February 20, 2025] (0221-0228)

Propagation (Updated daily)



The Weekly Solar Data chart plots Solar Flux Index (SFI), Sunspot number (SSN) and Planetary K-Index (Kp) for the past 8 days. With 8 Planetary K-index readings each day, only the minimum, average and maximum K-index values are plotted. **Note:** You may click [here](#) or on the chart above to see the same data for the past month.

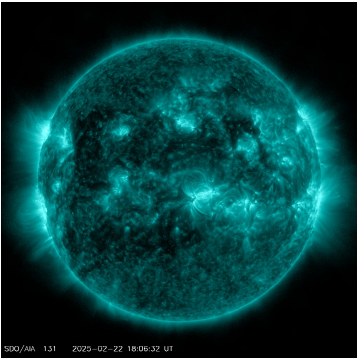
The Daily Solar Flux Index, Sunspot number, Planetary K-index, Solar Flux predictions and Solar Flare data used in this bulletin have been collected by KØCF from the U.S. Department of Commerce's NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center.

The propagation graphs above are the creations of KØCF and are unique in space weather reporting.

Please Note: The graphs are high resolution .PNG files which you may view in greater detail using your browser's "zoom" feature. Alternatively, right click on the graph and select "Open Image in New Tab" to enlarge it, or "Save Image As..." to save it to your computer for further analysis.

NASA's current view of the Sun at a wave-length of 131 Angstroms. This wavelength shows incredible solar detail.

Click [here](#) or on the image to view as a full screen 48-hour video loop. It is fascinating!



Propagation Summary

For the 8 day period from Friday, February 14th through yesterday, February 21st.

The average solar flux was 184, up 18 points from the previous week, with a weekly high of 197 on Friday, February 21st, following a low of 178 on February 19th.

The average sunspot count was 173, up 56 from last week, peaking at 271 on Sunday, February 16th after a weekly low of 111 on February 14th.

The Planetary K-index weekly average was 4.3 with a maximum of 5.0 on Wednesday, February 19th, indicating a minor geomagnetic storm. Yesterday's K-index maximum was 3.0 with generally quiet conditions.

Solar flare activity since February 15th has been quiet with only 3 major flares, the largest of which was an M 3.3 event on Friday, February 21st.

Propagation Data

Major solar flares, Saturday, February 15th through 1412 UTC, February 22nd.

#	Date	UTC	Mag.
1	Feb 21	1435	M 1.4
2	Feb 21	1215	M 3.3
3	Feb 17	1513	M 1.1

(NOAA's graph of recent flare activity: [GOES-X-Ray-Flux](#))

From the NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center, here are the probabilities of major solar flares and the predicted 10.7 cm Solar Flux for the next 3 days. NOAA updates this information daily.

Date	M-Flares	X-Flares	Solar Flux
Feb 22	40%	10%	195
Feb 23	40%	10%	190
Feb 24	40%	10%	185

Looking farther ahead, here is the NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center forecast of 10.7 cm radio flux and maximum Planetary K-index (Kp) for the next 12 days. This data is updated by NOAA every Monday (last updated on February 17, 2025).

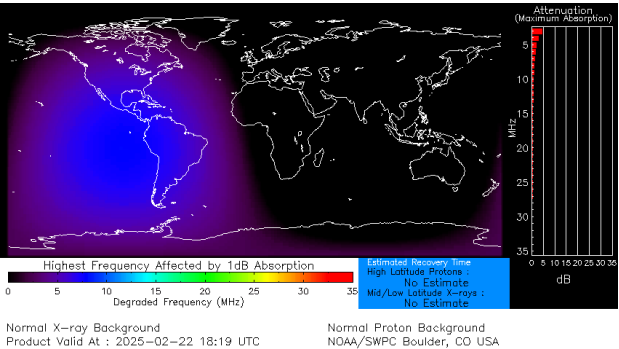
Date	Flux	Kp
Feb 22	170	2
Feb 23	170	2
Feb 24	190	2
Feb 25	195	2

Date	Flux	Kp
Feb 26	200	2
Feb 27	195	3
Feb 28	195	5
Mar 1	190	4

Date	Flux	Kp
Mar 2	195	2
Mar 3	200	2
Mar 4	205	2
Mar 5	205	2

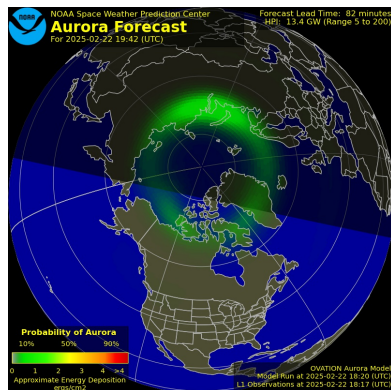
Global D Region Absorption

Conditions in the D-region of the ionosphere have a dramatic effect on HF communications. The D-Region Absorption map combines the effects of solar particles and photons. Yellow to red colors on the map depict increasing signal attenuation, where the bar chart at the right displays attenuation versus frequency. Click the thumbnail below for an animated map of D-Region Absorption:



The Aurora Borealis

The aurora is not only beautiful to see but can have a profound impact on HF and VHF radio propagation. For the HF operator, auroras can result in a complete shut-down of propagation. However, on VHF, auroras present interesting DX possibilities. Beam antennas are very desirable and should be pointed north, towards the aurora. Signals are reflected by "back-scatter" and will be distorted with a rough buzz. SSB is the best voice mode to use, but copy can be difficult. CW will have a rough buzzy sound but be perfectly copyable. Click the thumbnail below for an animated map of aurora versus time:



Highs for Cycle 25

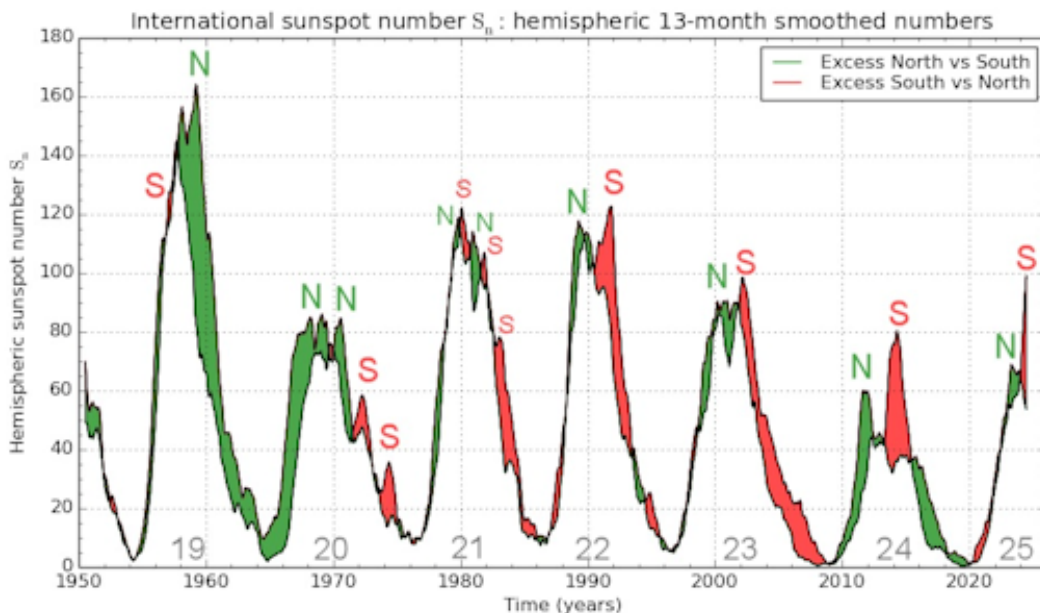
Solar Flux: 336 on August 8, 2024.

Sunspots: 382 on August 10, 2024.

Solar Max -- Is a Second Peak Coming?

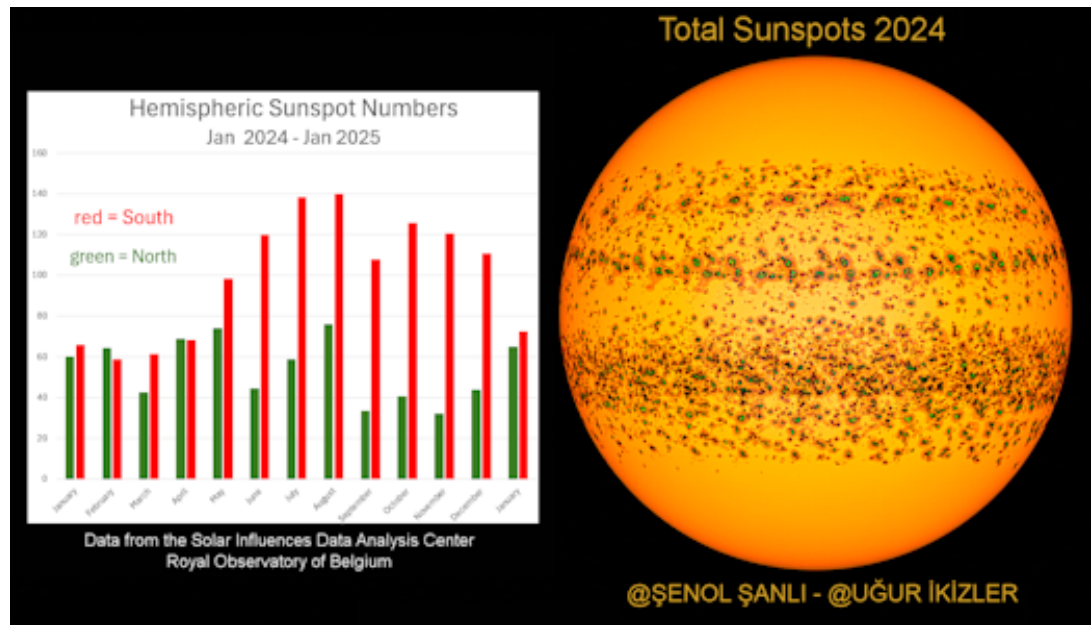
Last October, NOAA and NASA announced that [Solar Max has arrived](#). Only half the sun got the memo. The majority of solar activity has been happening in just one of the sun's hemispheres--the south. The solar superstorm of May 10, 2024, for instance, was caused by a monster southern sunspot.

It makes you wonder, is the other half of Solar Max still coming? This plot of hemispheric sunspot numbers from [SILSO](#) provides some context:



Here we see all seven solar cycles of the Space Age, punctuated by current Solar Cycle 25 on the far right. The most recent cycles are double peaked, with northern sunspots (green) and southern sunspots (red) reaching their own Solar Max ~two years apart. This isn't big news. Researchers have long known that the two hemispheres of the sun are slightly out of sync. The north vs. south delay is called the "[Gnevyshev gap](#)."

This composite image of last year's sunspots shows how dominant the southern hemisphere has been:



For forecasters of the solar cycle, this raises an interesting possibility: Maybe the northern peak is still coming. Indeed, there are signs in February 2025 that the pendulum is swinging. This month's sunspots have been more evenly distributed between the two hemispheres, a sign that activity may be shifting north.

On the other hand, the northern peak might have already occurred. [Take another look at the first plot.](#) There is a puny northern peak near the beginning of Solar Cycle 25. Perhaps that was it.

This discussion focuses attention on the north-south balance of sunspots. A northern shift in the months ahead could herald a second peak and another year or two of excellent auroras before Solar Cycle 25 finally peters out. Stay tuned!

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Popular Propagation web sites

<https://prop.kc2g.com/> (Excellent Maximum Usable Frequency map)

NOAA <https://www.swpc.noaa.gov/>

<https://www.spaceweather.com/>

<https://www.solarham.com/>

<https://dx.qsl.net/propagation/>

A Propagation Tutorial

The solar X-ray flux tracks solar activity and solar flares. Solar flux, which can vary from as low as 50 to as high as 300, influences the level of ionization in the F2 region of the ionosphere, providing a very good prediction of HF DX conditions. The higher the solar flux, the better conditions will be for the higher HF frequencies and even 6 meters. However, the levels need to be maintained for some days to allow ionization in the F2 layer to build up. A solar flux of 150 results in good HF band conditions, while levels of 200 and up can provide great conditions.

Large X-ray flares on the sun can increase the ionization of the D layer of the ionosphere (a lower layer) on the sunlit side of the Earth, greatly attenuating or blocking HF radio transmissions for up to a half hour. Solar flares often produce Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs) which, if Earth directed, can lead to geomagnetic storms. Some large flares are also accompanied by strong radio bursts that may interfere with other radio frequencies and cause problems for satellite communication and radio navigation (GPS).

The Planetary K-index is a measure of the magnitude of geomagnetic storms and is an excellent indicator of disturbances in the Earth's magnetic field. A level of 1 or 2 represents quiet geomagnetic conditions; a reading of 3 or 4 may cause some propagation deterioration; 5 and 6 are minor to moderate geomagnetic storms; and 7 to 9 are strong, severe, and extreme storm conditions. Strong geomagnetic storms can trigger Auroral displays and cause HF radio blackouts. Higher geomagnetic activity also has the adverse effect of lowering maximum usable frequencies, much like lower solar flux

does.

For best conditions, the solar flux should be above 150 for a few days with the K index below 2. When these conditions are met, some good DX is likely!

-[Compiled from information on NOAA.gov and other sources]

Contest Calendar

Weekly Contests

Contest	Start UTC		End	Web Site
K1USN Slow Speed Test	Monday	0000Z	0100Z	Rules
ICWC Medium Speed Test	Monday	1300Z	1400Z	Rules
	Monday	1900Z	2000Z	
	Tuesday	0300Z	0400Z	
CWops Test (CWT)	Wednesday	1300Z	1400Z	Rules
	Wednesday	1900Z	2000Z	
	Thursday	0300Z	0400Z	
	Thursday	0700Z	0800Z	
Weekly RTTY Test	Friday	0145Z	0215Z	Rules
NCCC CW Sprint (NS)	Friday	0230Z	0300Z	Rules

Note: Start Days are in UTC, e.g. Monday at 0000 UTC is Sunday at 7:00 PM in the Central Daylight Saving Time zone, or Sunday at 6:00 PM in the Central Standard Time zone.

Full Calendar

Contest	Start		End		Web Site
CQ 160-Meter Contest, SSB	Feb 21	2200Z	Feb 23	2159Z	Rules
South Carolina QSO Party	Feb 22	1500Z	Feb 23	0159Z	Rules
North American QSO Party, RTTY	Feb 22	1800Z	Feb 23	0600Z	Rules
North Carolina QSO Party	Feb 23	1500Z	Feb 24	0100Z	Rules
ARRL Inter. DX Contest, SSB	Mar 1	0000Z	Mar 2	2400Z	Rules
Open Ukraine RTTY Championship	Mar 1	1800Z	Mar 2	1359Z	Rules
YB DX RTTY Contest	Mar 8	0000Z	Mar 8	2359Z	Rules
Oklahoma QSO Party	Mar 8	1400Z	Mar 9	2100Z	Rules
Stew Perry Topband Challenge	Mar 8	1500Z	Mar 9	1500Z	Rules
Idaho QSO Party	Mar 8	1900Z	Mar 9	1900Z	Rules
North American Sprint, RTTY	Mar 9	0000Z	Mar 9	0359Z	Rules
Wisconsin QSO Party	Mar 9	1800Z	Mar 10	0100Z	Rules
BARTG HF RTTY Contest	Mar 15	0200Z	Mar 17	0200Z	Rules
Russian DX Contest	Mar 15	1200Z	Mar 16	1200Z	Rules
Virginia QSO Party	Mar 15	1400Z	Mar 16	2400Z	Rules

North American SSB Sprint Contest	Mar 23	0000Z	Mar 23	0400Z	Rules
CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB	Mar 29	0000Z	Mar 30	2400Z	Rules
Louisiana QSO Party	Apr 5	1400Z	Apr 6	0200Z	Rules
SP DX Contest	Apr 5	1500Z	Apr 6	1500Z	Rules
JIDX CW Contest	Apr 12	0700Z	Apr 13	1300Z	Rules
New Mexico QSO Party	Apr 12	1400Z	Apr 13	0200Z	Rules
Georgia QSO Party	Apr 12	1800Z	Apr 13	2359Z	Rules
ARRL Rookie Roundup, SSB	Apr 13	1800Z	Apr 13	2359Z	Rules
Holyland DX Contest	Apr 18	2100Z	Apr 19	2100Z	Rules
YU DX Contest	Apr 19	0700Z	Apr 20	0659Z	Rules
Michigan QSO Party	Apr 19	1600Z	Apr 20	0400Z	Rules
Ontario QSO Party	Apr 19	1800Z	Apr 20	1800Z	Rules
Quebec QSO Party	Apr 20	1200Z	Apr 20	2200Z	Rules
Florida QSO Party	Apr 26	1600Z	Apr 27	2159Z	Rules
7th Call Area QSO Party	May 3	1300Z	May 4	0700Z	Rules
Indiana QSO Party	May 3	1600Z	May 4	0400Z	Rules
Delaware QSO Party	May 3	1700Z	May 4	2359Z	Rules
New England QSO Party	May 3	2000Z	May 4	2400Z	Rules
His Maj. King of Spain Contest, CW	May 17	1200Z	May 18	1200Z	Rules
Arkansas QSO Party	May 17	1400Z	May 18	0200Z	Rules
CQ WW WPX Contest, CW	May 24	0000Z	May 25	2400Z	Rules

-[Contest data courtesy of the [WA7BNM Contest Calendar](#)]